

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on October 17, 2005, **EDDY V. CROSS**, age 45, of Gorham, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. CROSS, who had previously pled guilty to a two-count indictment, charging him with unlawful manufacture of methamphetamine and maintaining a place for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine was sentenced to 188 months' imprisonment, 6 years' supervised release, and was fined \$1000.

According to information related in open court or contained in official court documents, the investigation established that between March 2005 and April 29, 2005, defendant was involved with others in the manufacture of methamphetamine. When agents searched CROSS's Gorham residence, on April 29, 2005, they located a methamphetamine lab.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, Jackson County States Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group. The Illinois Department of Corrections also assisted in the investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.